WIKIPEDIA 25
25 years of the free encyclopedia

Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened

Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened is an adventure video game developed by Frogwares and published in 2006 for Windows. The game follows an original plotline as Sherlock Holmes and his companion Dr. John H. Watson investigate a series of strange disappearances related to the Cthulhu Mythos.

The third in the *Sherlock Holmes* series of adventure games developed by Frogwares, *The Awakened* was preceded in 2002 by *Sherlock Holmes: The Mystery of the Mummy* and in 2004 by *Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Silver Earring*. This is the first game in the series to tackle supernatural elements such as the Cthulhu Mythos, the previous two games having fairly traditional (albeit original) Holmesian plots.

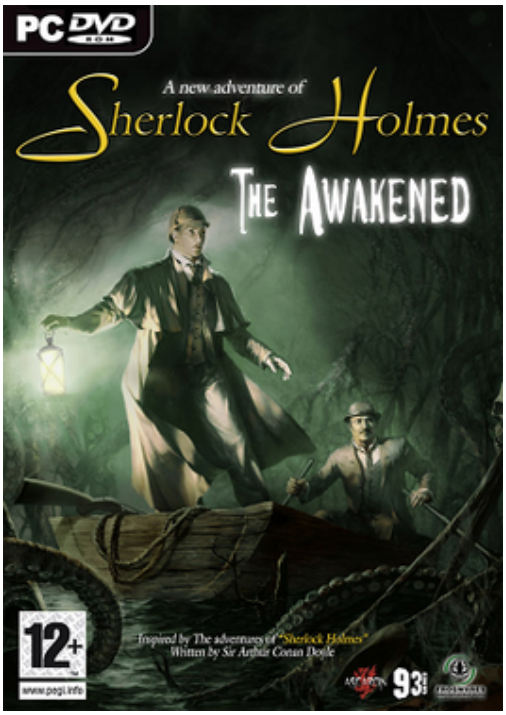
In 2008, a remastered version was released that offers the ability to play in a third-person perspective mode in addition to the first-person perspective. This version also features improved graphics and changes to the help system. It is also the first "Sherlock Holmes" game to get an M (Mature 17+) rating from the ESRB. The remastered version became available on Steam on August 6, 2009.

A remake of the game was released in April 2023 for Windows, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, Xbox One, and Xbox Series X/S.

Plot

On September 6, 1894, Sherlock Holmes stares out of his window, bored that he has no case to solve that is worthy of his talents. He learns that a young Māori manservant, who works for Captain Stenwick, has mysteriously disappeared. Holmes quickly deduces not only that the servant has been kidnapped, but also that two men – one significantly larger than the other – were responsible. A few leads point to the docks by the Thames, and there, Holmes and Watson learn that

Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened



European cover art

Developer	Frogwares
Publishers	EU: Frogwares Focus Home Interactive[1] UK: Ascaron, 93Games[2] NA: CDV Entertainment[3]
Designer	Jalil Amr
Series	*Sherlock Holmes*
Platforms	Windows, iOS
Release	**Windows** FRA: November 24, 2006[4] UK: February 16, 2007[2] NA: September 11, 2007 *Remastered* EU: June 27, 2008 NA: August 6, 2009 **iOS** WW: February 3, 2013[5][6]
Genre	Adventure

Mode	Single-player

similar kidnappings of foreigners have occurred. Further investigation leads them to an abandoned subterranean temple, where they discover a bloody and tortured corpse upon a sacrificial altar. They also find opium with morphine which leads Holmes to deduce that it is being used as a kind of soporific to subdue victims, so that they can be abducted and trafficked out of the country. After finding a crate labelled "Black Edelweiss Institute", Holmes recalls that the mountain flower Edelweiss (*Leontopodium alpinum*) is a national symbol of Switzerland.

Upon arrival it is discovered that the Black Edelweiss Institute is a Swiss mental asylum headed by a gentleman named Dr. Gygax. Holmes and Watson hatch a plan to gain access and investigate. Knowing that he is about to willingly fall into the hands of criminals, Holmes sends Watson away from the asylum. This is primarily for his own safety, but also so that Holmes still has a connection with the outside world should things go awry once inside the institute. Donning a costume and assuming a false identity, Holmes enters and is quickly incarcerated. After escaping from his cell, he finds further proof of Dr. Gygax's involvement in serious criminal activities. Not only has the doctor been performing dangerous experiments on helpless victims in the asylum, he is also part of a cult awaiting the arrival of "the One". The drugs provided were paid for with precious stones in New Orleans. Holmes unexpectedly discovers that his nemesis Moriarty is a patient, though a weakened shadow of his former self having survived the fall at Reichenbach. Using Moriarty as a distraction, Holmes extricates himself from the asylum.

Sherlock Holmes with a young Hercule Poirot

Holmes and Watson travel to New Orleans to intercept the transfer of the stones. They are soon taunted and harassed by the local sheriff who recognises them and appears to have some connection to the cult. They learn that the stones were sold to the bank by the butler of a local man known as Mr. Arneson. Both Arneson and his servant, a young lad named Davy, have been missing for days. They find Davy, who is mute due to psychological trauma. After Watson treats him, Davy writes on a chalkboard a series of numbers, which Watson copies down. Holmes and Watson then rescue Arneson, who was about to be sacrificed by a crazed cult member deep in the swamp, and retrieve an ancient book.

Back in London, Holmes and Watson learn from the book about a mythical sea god who could be awakened by the sacrificing of persons representing the different nations. They also decipher Davy's numbers, which they find are co-ordinates pointing to Ardnamurchan Lighthouse on a Scottish coastline. Once at the lighthouse, Holmes and Watson have a final confrontation with the cultists and their leader Lord Rochester, whose fortune finances the sect. Holmes manages to stop the "summoning", but a fierce storm appears, which Rochester assumes is the coming of Cthulhu. Despite Holmes' attempt to stop him, Rochester jumps to his death into the raging sea below. Upon returning to London, Watson plans to write their adventure into a book, however Holmes tells him to not do it as the knowledge they have witnessed may fall into the wrong hands, which Watson thankfully accepts.

Gameplay

The Awakened is the first Frogwares title to allow gameplay to take place in an entirely real-time 3D landscape and from a first-person perspective, losing the pre-rendered backgrounds of its predecessor. Like other Sherlock Holmes games by Frogwares it gives an open world environment in every location that can hide clues and interact with NPC. The inventory system saves all objects, documents and map locations for later use and can also be used to combine objects. All conversations with characters in the game are completed through linear cut scenes for which the players cannot direct the subjects at any point.

Some of these conversations are triggered merely by clicking on a character, while others require complete a series of tasks before they will happen on their own. While most of Holmes' conclusions in the game come from gathering random clues found around the crime scenes, the players will have the opportunity to take evidence back to Holmes' famous 221 B Baker Street flat and examine it under a microscope or put it through chemical tests. They will also have puzzles to solve throughout the game like picking combination locks, deciphering cryptic messages and solving a clock puzzle to open a safe.

Searching for clues at a crime scene

The game can be viewed from a first- or third-person perspective and it provides with an icon to indicate what actions Holmes can take within his world like pick up or talk. Holmes can move around via the mouse or the keyboard and his movement is completely free within the 3D space. While the game does give a fair amount of space to move around in each area, there are cases where Holmes must move to a new area screen or change his view of the street in order to move where the players want him to, but in those cases, an icon will show a set of footprints to indicate the change.

Although the game had adopted a view popularized by the first-person shooter genre, it retains the point-and-click aspect of most adventure games, giving the player the ability to complete the game using the mouse alone.

Remaster and remake

A full remake of the game featuring a substantially rewritten script was developed by Frogwares and launched on Microsoft Windows, Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, Xbox One, and Xbox Series X/S in April 2023.[7] The remastered version allows for gameplay in a third-person perspective, similar to other Frogwares titles, such as *Sherlock Holmes: Secret of the Silver Earring* and *Dracula: Origin*. Other new features included a host of quality of life improvements and fully redone assets.

Reception

The game received "generally mixed or average" reviews, according to review aggregator platform Metacritic receiving a score of 72 out of 100 from a total of 28 critics.[9] The first four *Sherlock Holmes* titles from Frogwares—*Mummy*, *Silver Earring*, *The Awakened* and *Nemesis*—totaled roughly 1.5 million global sales by February 2009.[13]

GameSpot praised the game's engaging story, puzzles, and visuals while panning its unskippable cutscenes.[14]

Reception

Aggregate scores	
Aggregator	**Score**
GameRankings	71.32% (31 reviews)[8]
Metacritic	72% (23 reviews)[9]
Review scores	
Publication	**Score**
Eurogamer	6/10[10]
GameSpot	8.3 of 10[11]
IGN	8.1 of 10[12]
Digitally Downloaded	3.5/5 (iPad)[6]

Awards

The game earned *GameSpot*'s "Best Use of a License" award in 2007.[15] It was also nominated for *GameSpot*'s and *IGN*'s "Best PC Adventure Game of 2007" awards.[16][17]

In 2011, *Adventure Gamers* named *The Awakened* the 80th-best adventure game ever released.[18]

See also

- *All-Consuming Fire*
- *Shadows Over Baker Street*
- *Still Life 2*

References

1. Legally, Focus Home Interactive was not a publisher but a licensee (distribution intermediary): "It needs to be clear it wasn't a "developer and publisher" situation" (https://www.planete-aventure.net/article.php?id=97) Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20200915220654/https://www.planete-aventure.net/article.php?id=97) 2020-09-15 at the Wayback Machine (Waël Amr), Planète Aventure, 22 February 2020.
2. "*Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened* screenshots to explore..." (https://www.gamesindustry.biz/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened-screenshots-to-explore) *GamesIndustry*. January 25, 2007. Retrieved August 2, 2024.
3. "CDV to Publish *Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened* in North America" (https://www.gamesindustry.biz/cdv-to-publish-sherlock-holmes-the-awakened-in-north-america). *GamesIndustry*. June 8, 2007. Retrieved August 2, 2024.
4. "*Sherlock Holmes : La Nuit des Sacrifiés*" (https://www.jeuxvideo.com/jeux/pc/00016831-sherlock-holmes-la-nuit-des-sacrifies.htm) [*Sherlock Holmes: Night of the Sacrificed*]. *Jeuxvideo.com*. Retrieved August 2, 2024.
5. "*Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened HD*" (https://toucharcade.com/games/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened-hd). *TouchArcade*. Retrieved August 2, 2024.

6. M., Jason (13 March 2013). "Review: Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened (iPad)" (https://www.digitallydownloaded.net/2013/03/review-sherlock-holmes-awakened-ipad.html). *Digitally Downloaded*. Retrieved 27 April 2023.
7. Romano, Sal (1 September 2022). "Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened remake launches in February 2023" (https://www.gematsu.com/2022/09/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened-remake-launches-in-february-2023). *Gematsu*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20221230142327/https://www.gematsu.com/2022/09/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened-remake-launches-in-february-2023) from the original on 30 December 2022. Retrieved 2 September 2022.
8. "Aggregate score" (http://www.gamerankings.com/pc/935956-sherlock-holmes-the-awakened/index.html). *GameRankings*. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20191209013006/http://www.gamerankings.com/pc/935956-sherlock-holmes-the-awakened/index.html) from the original on 9 December 2019. Retrieved 22 August 2008.
9. "*Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened*" (https://www.metacritic.com/game/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened/critic-reviews/?platform=pc). Metacritic. 1 March 2007. Retrieved 29 December 2010.
10. Dan Whitehead (3 April 2007). "Aggregate score" (http://www.eurogamer.net/articles/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened-review). *Eurogamer*.
11. "Xbox review" (https://web.archive.org/web/20111127235555/http://asia.gamespot.com/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened). *GameSpot*. Archived from the original (http://asia.gamespot.com/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened) on 27 November 2011. Retrieved 22 August 2008.
12. "Xbox review" (https://web.archive.org/web/20070918211337/http://pc.ign.com/articles/819/819820p1.html). *IGN*. 13 September 2007. Archived from the original (http://pc.ign.com/articles/819/819820p1.html) on September 18, 2007. Retrieved 22 August 2008.
13. "*Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper*" (https://web.archive.org/web/20180714222459/https://www.gamesindustry.biz/articles/sherlock-holmes-vs--jack-the-ripper-frogwares-lets-rip-with-a-new-set-of-screenshots) (Press release). GamesIndustry.biz. February 19, 2009. Archived from the original (https://www.gamesindustry.biz/articles/sherlock-holmes-vs--jack-the-ripper-frogwares-lets-rip-with-a-new-set-of-screenshots) on July 14, 2018.
14. "Gamespot: Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened Review" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120222160702/http://asia.gamespot.com/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened/reviews/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened-review-6168180/). *GameSpot*. Archived from the original (http://asia.gamespot.com/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened/reviews/sherlock-holmes-the-awakened-review-6168180/) on 22 February 2012. Retrieved 27 August 2011.
15. "Frogwares Game Development Studio" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120330093246/http://asia.gamespot.com/best-games-of-2007/specialachievement/index.html?page=10). *GameSpot*. Archived from the original (http://asia.gamespot.com/best-games-of-2007/specialachievement/index.html?page=10) on 30 March 2012. Retrieved 21 June 2007.
16. "IGN: Best of 2007" (https://web.archive.org/web/20071225190548/http://bestof.ign.com/2007/pc/2.html). *IGN*. Archived from the original (http://bestof.ign.com/2007/pc/2.html) on 25 December 2007. Retrieved 21 June 2007.
17. Staff. "Best of 2007; Genre Awards: Best Adventure Game" (https://web.archive.org/web/20091130033121/http://www.gamespot.com/best-games-of-2007/genreawards/index.html?page=3). *GameSpot*. Archived from the original (http://www.gamespot.com/best-games-of-2007/genreawards/index.html?page=3) on November 30, 2009. Retrieved July 20, 2018.
18. AG Staff (December 30, 2011). "Top 100 All-Time Adventure Games" (https://web.archive.org/web/20120604021011/http://www.adventuregamers.com/articles/view/18643). *Adventure Gamers*. Archived from the original (http://www.adventuregamers.com/articles/view/18643) on June 4, 2012. Retrieved June 4, 2018.

External links

- Official site (https://web.archive.org/web/20070327161751/http://www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/) (archived)
- *Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened* (https://www.mobygames.com/game//sherlock-holmes-the-awakened) at MobyGames
- *Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened* (https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0896858/) at IMDb

---

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sherlock_Holmes:_The_Awakened&oldid=1334569812"